



## Chief's Update February 20, 2015

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

To begin, a very heartfelt congratulations to everyone that was recognized at Wednesday's Award Ceremony – job well done!

In Fact, during the ceremony Chief Ryff spoke about the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual demands, placed on each and every one of us who has made the conscious and admirable choice to devote their lifetime to the noble profession we call policing. It is a direct result of these demands that the Blue Courage philosophy was born. During my assignment at the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy, I had the opportunity to infuse the Blue Courage teachings into our State's basic police academy curriculum – a first in the Nation. For those that may not be familiar with this training and philosophy, its' dominated by establishing the right Heartset and Mindset of the individual and far less focused on teaching a skillset or use of a toolset. If you have had the opportunity to attend one of the two-day, Blue Courage workshops, hopefully you were reinvigorated and reminded why it was you made the choice you did to enter such a noble profession. Likewise, you were provided with techniques and practices that will strengthen you and provide sustainability in all four dimensions – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. In strengthening ourselves in each of these domains, we are able to operate at our peak performance when it matters most, we not only make better decisions but we have the ability to make the right decision for the right reason and at the right moment and it results in improved health and well-being.

Last week, a more global discussion of where the Blue Courage philosophy is going, within the law enforcement community, was had by members of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, International Association of Director's in Law Enforcement Standards and Training, Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training and the Tempe Police Department. The result of this conversation was to identify a National Program Manager for Blue Courage. Based upon my implementation experience at ALEA combined with my firm belief in the Blue Courage philosophy, I have the distinct honor of being named to the program manager position. Beginning Monday, it will be my responsibility to help bring the Blue Courage philosophy to the law enforcement community at the local, state and national level. In doing so, it is my belief this type of training, which is unique to our profession, is a key component in addressing situations we have witnessed across the country and are currently being discussed by President Obama's Taskforce on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

In closing, while many of the details are still amidst discussion, strong consideration is being given to naming the Tempe Police Department as the first and "model" police agency in our nation to implement the Blue Courage philosophy department-wide. This opportunity, for our agency and me personally, could only have been made possible through the continued support and leadership of Chief Ryff.

Please take a few moments to visit the links below to learn more about Blue Courage and the current discussions being had by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing task force.

Thank you and stay safe!

Mark Perkovich  
Commander

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